

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

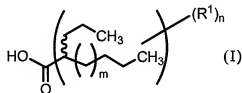
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented): A compound selected from the group consisting of (2R,7R)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7S)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid and (2R)-8-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, a salt thereof, or a prodrug thereof.

8. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 4-~~or~~-7, which is obtained by chemical synthesis.

9. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:
a compound represented by formula (I):



wherein

R¹ represents hydroxy or oxo,

wavy line indicates α -configuration, β -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

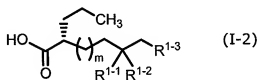
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R¹'s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

R¹⁻¹ and R¹⁻² are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

R¹⁻¹ is taken together with R¹⁻² to represent oxo,

R¹⁻³ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

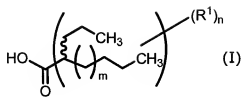
||||| indicates α -configuration; and

wherein, when R¹⁻¹ is taken together with R¹⁻² to represent oxo, R¹⁻³ represents a hydrogen atom, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable additive agent.


10.-18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): A method for treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I); ~~depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof~~



_____ wherein

_____ R^1 represents hydroxy or oxo,

_____  indicates α -configuration, β -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

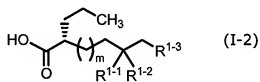
_____ n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

_____ m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

_____ wherein two or more R^1 's are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

_____ a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

_____ in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):




_____ wherein

_____ R^{1-1} and R^{1-2} are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

_____ R^{1-1} is taken together with R^{1-2} to represent oxo,

_____ R^{1-3} represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

_____ m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

_____  indicates α -configuration; and

wherein, when R¹⁻¹ is taken together with R¹⁻² to represent oxo, R¹⁻³ represents a hydrogen atom.

20.-21. (canceled).